

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Moscow Oblast/Ukrainian SSR)	REPORT NO.		50X1
SUBJECT	MVD Troop Schools	DATE DISTR.	17 May 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	5	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		50X1
DATE ACQUIRED				

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE:		50X1
		50X1

LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA CODES (16)

3-02-0406

5/55

135.1
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176.1
238.3
131.61

527N
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STATE	#x	ARMY	#x	NAVY	#x	AIR	#x	FBI	#x	AEC						
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)																

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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 25 April 1955

SUBJECT MVD Troop Schools

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF INFORMATION

50X1

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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SOURCE

A. MVD Troop Institute in Moscow

1. At the top of the MVD troop-unit school system was the Moscow MVD "Red Banner" Troop Institute named after Lenin. This school was located at Building 5, Leningrad Shosse, Moscow. The course at this school lasted for four years, covered a combined arms program of instructions (obshche voyskovaya programma), and was modeled after the Soviet Army Frunze Academy.
2. Students received the equivalent of three years of instruction at the Frunze Academy plus a year of special MVD subjects. Each school year lasted 11 months. Students were drawn not only from all varieties of MVD troop units, including the border guard, but also from MVD operational organs. Graduates were credited with having completed the highest education possible along military lines.
3. As the Frunze Academy was considered the highest ground force combined arms school, the Zhukov Academy was the highest air school and the Stalin Academy was the highest military political academy. Like the other three, the MVD Troop Institute also had academy status.
4. To aspire to be a general officer of the MVD troops, it was mandatory to finish the MVD Troop Institute or the Frunze Academy as one of the prerequisites. Source knew of very few individuals who had attained MVD general officer status without finishing these schools, particularly the MVD Troop Institute.

Selection of Students

5. Border guard officers were nominated by their district headquarters to attend the MVD Troop Institute. Candidates could not be older than 36, had to have at least five years command experience at company,

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battalion, or equivalent level, a Communist Party membership with an exemplary Party record, and at least a middle school (10 years) education. Officers selected as students generally ranged from senior lieutenant to major and were selected from among those showing great future promise to the service.

Correspondence Courses

6. Both the MVD Troop Institute and the Frunze Academy for the Army had correspondence course-versions of their complete course. Lower ranking Soviet Army and MVD schools did not have this type of course. Only five to seven officers in the border guard district would take a military correspondence course. These officers would normally not be line officers but staff officers (штабисты). The courses were very difficult and officers, particularly line officers, had very little free time.
7. Lectures and material were sent to the student. For a six-week period twice each year the correspondence students actually traveled to the parent school in Moscow. There, the student listened to a concentrated series of lectures, made reports, took some examinations, picked up unclassified portions of work for the following semester, and returned to his unit. Classified matter was sent to him through the military postal service.
8. Source believed that correspondence students finished one section of the course about every three months and submitted it to the school at that time. Further, that if the lessons were not in by the specified time, both the student and his CO were reprimanded.
9. Correspondence students who failed to keep up with their courses or who failed the courses entirely were excluded from further participation in the course. A student who had failed the correspondence course could never hope to get into a regular full-time school because the number of applicants for the vacancies was so great.

Student Failures

10. Student officers, either full time or correspondence students, had to complete each year before passing on to the next. Hard-working students who failed the course but who had good service were not unduly penalized. 50X1

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B. Advanced Border Guard Officers' School

12. The highest border guard school was in the town 50X1
 This school opened in 50X1

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Selection of Students

13. Border Guard personnel selected to attend the MPSHQUOS included those in the following categories: Border guard komendatura COs and chiefs of staff and heads and deputies of staff sections and departments at district and otryad levels. Candidates chosen also had to have high personal qualifications, efficiency ratings, exemplary and active Party records, and had to be considered as showing promise as potential higher border guard commanders.

Breakdown of Instruction

14. There were six hours of classes daily with an average of 26 school days each month. The course lasted 10 months with an additional month allocated for administrative purposes, such as getting billeted, getting books, etc. Source estimated that the entire course covered about 1,500 class hours with 60 percent of those hours devoted to special border guard subjects, 20 percent to political subjects, and the remainder to military subjects of all kinds including army organization and tactics.
15. The bulk of instruction at MPSHQUOS was conducted in the classrooms with the exception of two short field trips for the student body to the Central Engineer Ground near Moscow and the Central Chemical Ground.² These field trips lasted only one or two days. MPSHQUOS students did not participate in any field exercises or CPXs during the school year.
16. The following is an example of a typical individual topic phase. First, there were six hours of classroom work with a regularly assigned instructor. After the six hours were completed, the student class leader or group leader then conducted a six-hour critique or conference discussion during which time the entire student group participated. Following this, the instructor gave an oral examination.

Examinations

17. After each topic phase of instruction was completed, faculty members gave oral examinations to students. At the end of 10 months of instruction, a final written examination was given to all students. This examination covered all previous subjects and was the only written examination given.

C. Other Border Guard Schools

18. Next in order in the hierarchy of line border guard schools after the MPSHQUOS (Advanced Officers School) was the Border Guard Officers' School (Voyennoye Pogranichnoye Uchilishche). The course at this school lasted for two years and was designed to give border guard line officers the equivalent of a "middle" military education. Border guard officers who graduated from a school on this level but not from a higher MVD school could not reasonably expect to rise beyond the rank of colonel.
19. One of these border guard officers' schools was located in the same complex of buildings as the MPSHQUOS. Another school was located at Dzauzhikau (sic) before World War II. However, source believes this school was possibly moved during the war to Central Asia, possibly

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Tashkent. A third school was located in Kamenets-Podolskiy (N 48-50, E 26-34). Just before World War II, there was a border guard school for higher officers at Alma Ata called "Shuks" Shkola usovershenstvovaniya Komandnogo Sostava (Officers' Refresher Course). This school was later moved to Kamenets-Podolskiy and in late 1951 to Moscow where the MPShUQS school was established from it. The present officers' school at Kamenets-Podolskiy was opened in place of the former.

20. Other border guard schools or courses known to source are the following:

- a. After World War II, a former border guard officers' (line) school was converted to a border guard higher-unit political officers' school at Saratov.
- b. A border guard OCS for NCOs was opened at Kamenets-Podolskiy to fill a shortage of border guard line officers.
- c. A border guard officers' intelligence school at Alma Ata.
- d. A border guard dog-training instructors' school at Alma Ata. Source emphasized that dogs play an important role in the border guard.
- e. A course for border guard communications specialists was given at Babushkin. Source estimated the number of students in this course to have been less than 100.

D. Training of Border Guard Officers at Army Schools

21. In past years, a small quota of border guard line officers went to schools for Soviet Army line officers, especially to the Frunze Academy. However, after the founding of the Moscow MVD Troop Institute, which had academy status, source never knew of any border guard officers who attended the Frunze Academy. He was unable to state whether or not any border guard or other MVD officers went to the Voroshilov Academy.
22. Source believes that border guard special-staff officers such as chemical officers, engineer officers, and quartermaster officers went to equivalent army schools because he never heard of border guard schools especially for these officers.
23. He believes that border guard medical officers had to be graduates of a medical institute and to be doctors (vrachi) to insure their promotion to field grade. Feldshers with less education remained company-grade officers.

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